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COMMISSION EXTENDS PLEADING CYCLE FOR REPLIES IN RULEMAKING PROCEEDING ON POSSIBLE REFORM OF THE COMMISSION'S INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS POLICY

IB Docket Nos. 02-324, 96-261)

DA 03-212 Released: January 28,2002

New Reply Comment Due Date: February 18,2003

By the Chief, Policy Division, International Bureau:

On October 11, 2002, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) seeking comment from the public regarding possible reform of its International Settlements Policy, International Simple Resale and benchmarks policies, and the issue of foreign mobile termination rates.

On January 14,2003, the Commission received comments from twenty parties on the issues under consideration in the NRPM. A substantial number of initial commenters are either foreign carriers or associations based in foreign countries. Therefore, recognizing the potential need of some of these commenters for additional time to ensure proper translations as well as the need for timely access to the initial comments through the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), we extend the comment due date for replies regarding the NPRM, FCC 02-285, IB Docket Nos. 02-324 & 96-261, by 12 days to February 18,2003 in order to afford all members of the public a full opportunity to comment on the issues raised in the initial comments. We find that the public interest will be served by this brief extension of the reply dates to allow for a more complete record in this proceeding.

Accordingly, pursuant to Sections I.1 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1, the new reply comment due date is February 18, 2003. Instructions for filing pleadings in this proceeding are set forth in the NPRM, available on the Commission's website at www.fcc.gov.

For further information, contact: James Ball, Chief, or Lisa Choi, Senior Legal Advisor, Policy Division, at (202) 418-1460.